

S/N 10/658,739



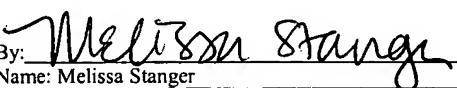
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Zimmel, Steven C.	Examiner:	Le, Thanh Tam T
Serial No.:	10/658,739	Group Art Unit:	2839
Filed:	September 8, 2003	Docket No.:	2316.1794US01
Title:	Ruggedized Fiber Optic Connection		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 21, 2004.

By:   
Name: Melissa Stanger

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants provide the following Amendment and Response to the Office Action mailed on July 13, 2004.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.

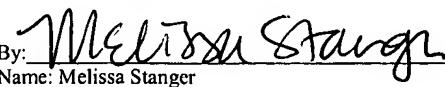
OIP SEP 23 2004 DFW  
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Zimmel, Steven C. Examiner: Le, Thanh Tam T  
Serial No.: 10/658,739 Group Art Unit: 2839  
Filed: September 8, 2003 Docket: 2316.1794US01  
Confirmation No.: 3367 Notice of Allow.  
No.: Date:  
Due Date: October 13, 2004  
Title: Ruggedized Fiber Optic Connection

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 24, 2004.

By:   
Name: Melissa Stanger

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- Amendment and Response
- Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By:   
Name: Alan R. Stewart  
Reg. No.: 47,974  
ARS/mstanger